During the last three years (2000-01 to 2002-03) ONGC produced 75.77 million metric tonnes (MMT) of oil and 72.306 billion cubic metres (BCM) of gas from the areas under its operation. The ultimate reserve accretion during the above period by ONGC from the areas under its operation was 173.87 MMT of oil and oil equivalent of gas.

(c) Presently, ONGC is exploring for oil and gas in the Krishna Godavari, Cauvery, Bengal and Mahanadi Offshore basins in East Coast and Mumbai, Kutch-Saurashtra and Kerala Konkan Offshore basin in West Coast. The onland areas where ONGC has been carrying out oil and gas exploration are, Cambay, Jaisalmer, Assam and Assam Arakan, Krishna Godavari, Cauvery, Bengal, Himalayan Foreland, Ganga and Vindhyan basins.

(d) The targets set by ONGC for production of crude oil and natural gas for the year 2003-04 are 26.387 MMT and 23.317 BCM, respectively.

Increase in price of natural gas

†959. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had decided to increase the price of natural gas after 1st April, 2003;

(b) if so, by how much it will be increased and by when; and

(c) whether Government of Maharashtra has given any representation for not increasing the price of gas; if so, what are the details of the representation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government of Maharashtra has represented against increase in natural gas price as this will have adverse effect on the cost of power.

Exploration of oil and gas in Maharashtra

†960. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the projects undertaken by ONGC to explore oil and natural gas in the sea-bed of Maharashtra;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.